



# TIP OF THE SPEAR

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLA.  
NOVEMBER 2005  
Online Version



**Marine Corps Special Operations Command activated  
SOF provides humanitarian hurricane relief  
Stationed for education: 'Degree in Three'**

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## Special operators partner with Pararescuemen to provide humanitarian hurricane relief

*Pararescueman Staff Sgt. Mike Maroney assigned to Task Force Katrina, shades a hurricane victim from the sun during transport to a local hospital for emergency surgery due to a ruptured Aorta. Pararescuemen and special operations warriors are brothers in arms in the Global War on Terror. Photo by Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce. See page 18.*



## Tip of the Spear

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*Front Cover: 490th Civil Affairs Battalion Soldiers participate in a nighttime live-fire training exercise at the Iraqi army compound firing range on Forward Operating Base Iskandariyah, Iraq. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Edward G. Martens.*

# Highlights

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# Desert Protectors: Newest **Iraqi** army unit

By Spc. Chris Stump  
CJSOTF-AP

With an intensity and passion only possessed by those truly motivated about their mission, the Iraqi army's newest soldiers successfully completed initial training just outside Camp Fallujah Oct. 6.

The virtues the new troops hold aren't the only thing setting them apart from other soldiers in the Iraqi Army though. Every graduate is from the same tribe in the western Al Anbar Province near Al Qaim along the Syrian border.

Many, if not most, of the men are relatives. All joined the fight to free their families and loved ones from the grasp of terrorists who have brought violence to their homes, villages and cities of volatile western Iraq.

"The terrorists come into our towns and kill. Only if we join the fight ourselves can we help protect our country," said Pvt. Abdel.

Abdel said he knows what he's doing is important and will make Iraq a better place.

"The families and people of Iraq need to be rid of the terrorists. Iraq will only be better if we get more people to join and fight," he said.

To effectively combat the terrorists who have entered their lives, the Desert Protectors spent several weeks under the instruction of special operations personnel from both the U.S. Navy and Army. During the course, the soldiers learned individual and squad movements, how to react to enemy fire and other necessary skills.

"I'm going to fight al Zarqawi's followers," Pvt. Ghedha proudly proclaimed one day during a break at the rifle marksmanship range.

"We're going to take everything we learn here and go



**New Iraqi army recruit practices close quarter combat drills during his training. The soldiers were being trained by Special Forces to combat anti-Iraqi forces in their hometowns. CJSOTF-AP photo.**

back and fight the terrorists."

"Iraq needs us to fight," he continued. "This is our country and we need to fight to keep it safe."

And fight they will, according to their instructors and Iraq's Ministry of Defense officials.

"These soldiers will play an important part in keeping western Iraq free of terrorists," said one of the MoD's Chief Warrant Officers.

"This group will take everything they know and use it to attack the terrorists who have attacked them and their families," he said. "They will ensure no terrorists come from outside Iraq and that those who are here already don't stay."

Providing freedom and security to those in their country who need it is why the soldiers joined the Iraqi army said the men. They would like to see Iraqis helping Iraqis in the future.

"If we don't get out and fight, who will make sure our families – wives, children, parents and others – are free from the terrorists?" asked one of the trainees. "I joined because I have a strong commitment to my country – only if we all join together will we be free from those hurting us."



**A Special Operations Forces instructor watches a Desert Protectors squad conduct a maneuver and lay suppressive fire during a live-fire exercise. CJSOTF-AP photo.**

# SOF conducts MEDCAP for 800 Iraqis

*CJSOTF-AP*

More than 800 men, women, children and almost 500 sheep, goats, cows and chickens were treated in a three day medical and veterinarian capabilities operations in Tal Afar, Iraq, Oct. 10-12.

Six Americans — military surgeons, medics and veterinarians — along with Iraqi army and police members visited the villages of Burghah, Avghani and Bughah just north of Tal Afar.

Not only did the opportunity to visit these villages provide the U.S. Special Operations Forces and Iraqi forces with valuable training, but they were also able to provide treatment for minor illnesses and a preventive medical assessment of water, infrastructure and food sources.

The medical and veterinary team were welcomed to the village of Burghah on its first day of visits. The medical team members treated about 250 Iraqis with a wide range of ailments.



*A Special Forces Soldier gives an Iraqi child a doll following a visit during a medical capability operation in Tal Afar, Iraq, Oct. 10-12. CJSOTF-AP photo.*

The veterinarian set up his equipment next to the medical team and immunized over 250 sheep, goats and cows.

The team also provided the village 250 doses of dewormer for future immunization for their animals.

On the second day, the team visited the village of Avghani. More than 500 individuals were examined and treated by the medical team there.

The medical and veterinary team finished their three day medical mission with visits to both the villages of Avghani and Burghulah. In the village of Burghulah, a female military doctor treated over 60 women and children.

Between the two villages, the veterinarian team treated over 140 sheep, 60 chickens, several cows and a bull.

Throughout the visits, the Iraqi Army and Police worked closely together with U.S. forces to provide security for the villagers.

*A Special Forces medic treats an Iraqi during a medical capability operation in Tal Afar, Iraq, Oct. 10-12. CJSOTF-AP photo.*





# Counterterrorism workshop **builds ties**

*By Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
USSOCOM Public Affairs*

More than 80 foreign military representatives from over 50 countries participated in a multinational counterterrorism workshop in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 18 to 20.

The U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Strategic Command held the event to discuss country and regional counterterrorism efforts and the Global Rewards Information Program.

"I have spoken before about this conference being a good example of what I have called the next level in the Global War on Terrorism," said Lt. Gen. Dell Dailey,



**A special operator instructs a Philippine soldier on M-16 site adjustment. USSOCOM photo.**

USSOCOM director of the Center for Special Operations who gave the opening remarks. "Obviously, because of our position in the world, the United States has a major role to play in combating international terrorism. But, as I think you will all discover ... terrorism is a global problem that recognizes no borders, that concerns us all, that violates the sovereignty of all of our nations, and that must be combated individually and collectively."

The intent of the workshop was to define communication strategies participants use to inform the public regarding known terrorists and their support networks ultimately to form an integrated global anti-terrorist program.

"Global partnerships manifest the ability to plan, resource, execute and sustain effective counterterrorist networks," said Col. John Davis, Center for Special Operations at USSOCOM. "Success in these initiatives depends on the total integration of all of our partner nations' capabilities. Partnership with other nations is critical for successes in the Global War on Terror."

The two-day workshop began with several speakers discussing aspects of terrorism setting the stage for subsequent presentations and discussions.

Stan Schrager, USSOCOM public diplomacy advisor, spoke about the GRIP program and how GRIP functioned like a global version of the television show "America's Most Wanted." Working closely with the FBI, the shows producers pass information to the public through the mass media about the criminals in the hope the public will respond with information on their whereabouts.

Each day of the workshop, breakout groups discussed how the potential effectiveness of strategic communications can be maximized by adjusting messages and themes to



**A Special Forces Soldier watches Afghan National Army soldiers rush into a compound to secure it while taking part in a mission walkthrough. Photo by Steve Hebert.**

fully account for cultural differences. Dailey said he hoped the conference would start an open and frank dialogue between attendees. “We, the Americans, are here not to talk to you about what we are doing, but to listen to you, to engage with you, to learn from you. This is the beginning of a process, of a continuing dialogue, which we hope to expand. We will be looking for your ideas on how we can continue this.”

“I think the United States needs to invest more in the Muslim world,” said Rohan Gunaratna, the head of International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore. “Terrorism is supported by less than one percent of the Muslim population. But to target the terrorist groups and the terrorist supporters, you need the total support of the Muslim population.”

The communication strategies also assist counterterrorism efforts by influencing those who may be considering terrorist acts. The desired effect is to develop joint programs to better inform the people of the respective countries and regions about terrorists and their activities to gain better public acceptance and support in defeating terrorism.

“The goal is to de-legitimize terrorism by developing a communications strategy that maximizes all aspects of GWOT,” Schrager said. The uncertainty, complexity and diversity of global terrorism elevate the significance of integrated international communications as a main concept to counterterrorism initiatives.



***A Psychological Operations Soldier hands out book bags to local children in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Spec. David Kobi.***



# CAT organizes **healthier** life

*By Sgt. Brian McElaney*  
**CJTF-HOA**

As the Civil Affairs Team finished writing their notes on the family planning room in the Baytal Qudhi clinic, in Ta'izz, Yemen, they noted the need for monitoring equipment such as a scale for infants and evidence of prior donations from several outside organizations.

"Is there something else that could be helpful here that you can think of?" asked the CAT 624 team medic, as he looked up from his notes.

Amah Abdumilah, the clinic's family planner, smiled as she listed needed vitamins and other small supplies for the remote clinic in the mountainside villages around Taiz. The Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa has already begun a \$203,000 renovation project to expand the clinic servicing thousands of villagers within a 15 kilometer (9 mile) radius. The assessment of the clinic could result in the coordination of additional medical equipment for this secluded village in southwestern Yemen.

The clinic represents several medical civil military operations being conducted with the help of CJTF-HOA in Yemen. Members of the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion have conducted medical and veterinary care, arranged for medical supply donations and coordinated with CJTF-HOA's engineers to arrange for expansions and renovations for a number of clinics.

"CA works on three pillars — health, education and civil relations," the medic said. "All three impact the community and, in a way, provide a level of stability."

The need to create this stability has been a foundation for a cooperative effort between the Yemeni government, CJTF-HOA's coalition members and several other organizations designed to bring aid to Yemen's neediest people.

While the bigger cities have adequate healthcare, remote areas such as those here are struggling to provide even simple wound care and diagnosis of common ailments. Yemen's relationship with the United States and other nations is allowing much needed help to reach these areas.

As the CAT medic, he coordinates with national and local government agencies in Yemen to determine areas of need. Once areas are identified, several projects are suggested by local leaders. It is important for a solid assessment to be made of the

projects, according to the medic, to ensure money is being spent wisely and going to those who need it most.

"If there are any other [Non-Government organizations] donating equipment and supplies out here, we don't want to step on their toes," he said. "We can always use our resources some place else where help hasn't come yet."

Once the various projects have been assessed, the CAT will formulate a healthcare plan for the region — organizing donations from various organizations with funds from CJTF-HOA. In Yemen, the CAT has worked to form relationships with large agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization and CARE as well as local organizations such as Yemen Smile, a non-profit organization that treats children with cleft lips or palates.

"I think coming over to Civil Affairs has made me a more well-rounded medic," he said about his experiences in organizing efforts from these organizations. "When I came into Civil Affairs, I brought some of my tactical and medical knowledge and applied it. Now, when I get back, I can take the knowledge I learned from Civil Affairs into the combat forces. That way, if I am in an area where there is a lack of Civil Affairs forces, I can maybe do some pet projects and bring this sort of help to people in other places."



**A Yemeni stone mason places a hand-cut block of stone while working on the foundation of an expansion of the Baytal Qudhi clinic, Yemen. Photo by Sgt. Brian McElaney.**



# 401st rebuilds Tal Afar after offensive

*By Lance Cpl. Bernadette Ainsworth  
CJTF-AP*

Scores of insurgents were reportedly killed, detained or fled from the town of Tal Afar Sept. 11 as coalition forces launched an offensive into the city, located about 30 miles west of Mosul in northern Iraq.

Now reconstruction and re-establishment of infrastructure in the city has been turned over to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's 401st Civil Affairs Battalion.

The Civil Affairs Soldiers have already been working on short-term projects in Tal Afar, including school refurbishments, supplying food, road repair, fixing electrical problems, digging wells for drinking water and starting a local newspaper.

Not only do the Soldiers repair and refurbish buildings, their long-term goal is to empower and teach the Iraqis to fix problems on their own when the coalition forces leave, said the commander of Company B, 401st CA Bn., Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Right now it is hard for the Iraqis to fix their own problems because of security issues," the commander said. "Once security is improved and people aren't afraid anymore, they can start to lead a normal life, which includes taking care of their city."



**Two U.S. Army captains talk to reporters and local residents of Tal Afar, Iraq, about the U.S. Army's plan to help rebuild the city. They are with the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion. Photo by Pfc. James Wilt.**

The 3rd ACR liaison officer, said he is excited to be a part of the solution.

"I'm a military person with a humanitarian mission," he said. "We're doing great things, and it's good to be a part of it."

The reward of being able to sit down and talk with the Iraqi's is one of the best parts of the job, he said.

"They're great people," he said. "It's nice to know that we're working for a good cause here."

# Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

## visits U.S. Special Operations Command

By Mike Bottoms  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld paid a visit to U.S. Special Operations Command in early October to receive briefings on the command's actions in the War on Terror.

America has one goal in the war on global terrorism: "It's victory — unconditional, unapologetic and unyielding," Rumsfeld said.

"Your mission is to be on the offense; it's to go on the attack, and that's what our forces are doing — They're engaging the enemy where they live so that they do not attack us where we live."

While at MacDill, Rumsfeld also visited U.S. Central Command and conducted a town hall meeting for the men and women of both major commands and the 6th Air Mobility Wing.

At SOCOM, he met with the Gen. Doug Brown, USSOCOM commander, and other flag and general

officers who gave the Secretary an operational brief on worldwide Special Operations Forces activities.

After finishing his SOCOM visit, Rumsfeld paid a visit to USCENTCOM where he received a current situation brief on Pakistan's earthquake disaster assistance.

Next, Rumsfeld headed to MacDill's Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Conference Center and conducted a town hall meeting. The Secretary began by thanking the military effort assisting in the disaster relief efforts in Pakistan and India. "Your efforts show the compassion and professionalism of the men and women in the U.S. military," he said.

Rumsfeld discussed a myriad of topics including



Gen. Doug Brown (right), commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, greets Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at MacDill AFB Fla. Photo by Mike Bottoms.

*"SOCOM is making great progress in the Global War on Terrorism."— Secretary Rumsfeld*

equipment acquisition, intelligence gathering strategies, democratization of Iraq, medical processes, media relations and military transformation.

Rumsfeld finished by reminding the audience we are in a "test of wills"

concerning the Global War on Terrorism and how much he appreciated the contributions of the military.

"You fight today so that our children and their children might not have to experience the heartbreak of something like Sept. 11," Rumsfeld said. "And the men and women in uniform — you and your associates all across the globe — are displaying resolute courage, the kind of courage that's defined our country through the generations."

Leaving MacDill, Rumsfeld traveled to United States Southern Command and Key Biscayne Florida, to host the Ministers of Defense and Security of the Central American nations at a conference themed "Security and Economic Opportunity."



# POLAD – SOCOM's envoy to world

*By Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser*  
*USSOCOM Public Affairs*

U.S. Special Operations Forces are engaged throughout the world fighting the Global War on Terrorism. They work hand-in-hand with ambassadors, country teams abroad and policy makers in Washington to ensure the safety and security of the United States.

Though everyone is on the same team, sometimes different elements of the teams see things differently, and coordinating the various roles can be difficult.

In this crossroads of politics and war, Marshall Adair, U.S. Special Operations Command's political advisor is helping the command navigate the dynamic relationship between the State Department and the military.

Adair, a minister-counselor in the Senior Foreign Service, advises Gen. Doug Brown, SOCOM's four-star commander, and his staff on how U.S. special operations and foreign policy mesh, and how they may be mutually constraining or supportive. He is also responsible for coordinating with the Department of State and U.S. diplomatic posts abroad.

His experience includes a variety of diplomatic positions overseas and at the State Department. These included posts in Europe (France & Bosnia-Herzegovina), Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), and Asia (Burma and four different posts in China: Taipei, Hong Kong, Beijing, & Chengdu). In Washington he has served as an international trade negotiator, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs and president of an association representing American diplomats and their profession.

With more than 30 years experience in diplomacy, he finds the POLAD position here one of his more challenging diplomatic assignments.

"SOCOM is a very interesting case," he said. "With our global mandate (lead DOD command in the War on Terrorism) we must work with many diplomats who have varying degrees of knowledge about SOF capabilities."

The lack of familiarity can cause friction between the diplomatic corps and special operators.

"Diplomats worry the military may do more damage than good, and are perceived by many military as always saying 'no' to military proposals. However, when we really work together we can be very effective — and that happens more often than people think."

With the need for embassies to play a major role facilitating special operations, Adair is working hard to



**Marshall Adair, U.S. Special Operations Command political advisor (right) talks with Col. Robert Shamblim, USSOCOM, during the International SOF Week Commander's Conference in June. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser.**

smooth out the rough edges and increase understanding of special operations capabilities and functions.

"The State Department provides all new ambassadors with a course reviewing the range of their responsibilities before they go to post," he said. "At the end of this course, we invite them to Fort Bragg and spend a day giving them a chance to meet people from all branches of special ops. This educates the diplomats about SOF and gives both groups the opportunity to get to know one another. It helps them connect in the future."

"If we are to succeed in combating terror, we must truly use all elements of national power, not just say it," he stresses. "Central to that is improving coordination between our diplomatic and military capabilities. SOCOM is trying to do that. I am very fortunate to be able to help — and to be here at SOCOM working with such dedicated professionals."

# 919th trains with coalition partners in Jordan, Norway

By Sandra Henry  
919th SOW/PA

Reservists from the 919th Special Operations Wing got better acquainted with their Jordanian and Norwegian counterparts while supporting special operations missions abroad.

Over the summer, the wing sent 14 aircrew members from the 5th Special Operations Squadron and a dozen maintainers from the 719th Maintenance Squadron to support Air Force Special Operations Command taskings for Early Victor 2005, an annual multinational exercise in Jordan. They also took part in follow-on training in Norway.

The 5th SOS trained with U.S. Navy and Army Special Operations Forces as well as SOF units from Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Italy during the Early Victor portion of the trip.

Missions aboard the MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft included personnel airdrops, black-out landings, infiltration,

exfiltration, and night-vision goggle low-level training, said Maj. John Laird,

919th Operations Support Squadron planner.

Other than the flying

training accomplished, another major Early Victor objective was the bridge-building and interoperability training occurring between all the participating countries, he said. Border security operations to halt trafficking and smuggling were also a major focus.

"We all knew we were going to a place where the terrorist element is very active, so that was foremost in our minds. However, because of the excellent support provided by the Force Protection Element at the U.S. Embassy Amman and our own internal intelligence support provided by Senior Airman Mike Taber, I felt we were able to manage the threat and accomplish some good training," Laird said.

The trip to Jordan also included a cultural exchange day. The Jordanians provided reservists a guided tour of the archeological site of Petra; and reservists hosted a dinner for the Jordanians at the deployed location, he said.

After mission accomplishment in Jordan, the Duke Field team set out for Norway.

Although the original tasking was for Early Victor participation, timing was excellent for the 5th SOS to also make the stop to work with the Norwegian Jaegerkorps, said Roy Vaughn, AFSOC planner for the Norway bilateral exercise.

"The switch was like night and day," Laird said. "We went from a hot, brown, barren landscape to one of lush green and moderate temperatures."

Norwegians are part of the coalition for the war against terrorism, Vaughn said. The exercise familiarizes coalition partners in the use of U.S. SOF air support in a deep battle environment to enhance future coalition operations and deployments.

The Combat Shadow served as a platform for high-altitude static line Jaegerkorps jumps. The drops were conducted at about 18,000 feet above sea level. Other joint training included infiltration, exfiltration and aerial re-supply of food and water, he said.

While aircrew members were busy flying missions, maintainers were working hard to keep the



A Norwegian Jaegerkorps jumps out of an MC-130P Combat Shadow flying at about 18,000 feet above sea level. AFSOC photo.





**Norwegian Jaegerkorps prepare for the high-altitude static line jump.** *"The Norwegian special operations forces were well-trained professionals who spoke excellent English," said Maj. John Laird, 919th Operations Support Squadron planner. "They were very enthusiastic to be hosting us." AFSOC photo.*

plane flying, said Senior Master Sgt. Stan Lasko, 719th MXS production superintendent for the trip.

"As with any mission, maintenance support is vital," Laird said. "If the plane doesn't work, the operators can't fly and accomplish the mission. Throughout the deployment, Lasko and the maintenance team busted their butts to make sure we had a flyable plane and we did every time.

"To successfully complete any mission, exercise or contingency operation, it all boils down to the quality of people you take along and the support you receive from home," he added. "From the aircrew to the maintainers and support folks, both with us and back at home station, all made this deployment a success."

## Air Force takes delivery of first CV-22

The U.S. Air Force took delivery of the first production representative CV-22 Osprey at the Bell Helicopter production facility in Amarillo, Texas Sept. 16. The current program calls for the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command to field 50 CV-22s to join the Global War on Terrorism and other special operations missions.

The aircraft will conduct an Operational Utility Evaluation next year, followed by Initial Operational Test and Evaluation. The CV-22 is scheduled to complete developmental testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., in Sept. 2007, with Initial Operational Capability (IOC) scheduled in 2009.



# Special Forces Detachment Korea transforms to **39th SF Detachment**



*The commander of Special Forces Detachment-Korea Maj. Robert Burmaster, looks on as Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, the commander of the Special Operations Command-Korea attaches the guidon for the newly re-designated unit. Photo by Sgt. Christopher Fincham.*

**Sgt. Christopher Fincham**  
8th Army PAO

In a brief ceremony, Soldiers of Special Forces Detachment-Korea looked on as Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, the Special Operations Command-Korea commander, officially re-designated the unit as the 39th Special Forces Detachment Oct. 14.

While the change may appear to be minimal, the “official” re-designation marks the culmination of more than 20-year effort to return this historic detachment to the ranks of “combat-deployable” units.

“While its nomenclature has changed at various times,” said Col. Richard Thomas, commander of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). “What has never changed is this detachment’s commitment to thoroughly professional and combat-ready combined special forces enabling the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task

Force to stand as “Primus Inter pares” – ‘First Among Equals’ – within the Combined Forces Command.”

Since it’s inception in 1958, the unit’s name and make-up have changed repeatedly. In 1974 it was inactivated as a combat-deployable unit and activated as a training unit. Then in 1984, the long process of re-establishing the detachment as a “combat-deployable” unit began.

“... The detachment that has served the brotherhood of our combined special forces so well over the last 50 years will continue to do so in the many years ahead,” Thomas said.

The 16 Soldiers making up the unit work hand in hand with nine South Korean units including a Special Mission Group, the 707th Special Mission Battalion (Counter Terrorist), six brigades, and a Special Warfare

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# Korean Tiger Brigade honored

## SOCKOR

During the autumn months, Korea receives a lot of rain, drizzle, sprinkles, showers and mist, much to the dismay of some Soldiers stationed there.

“Good infiltration weather,” a few Soldiers said as they departed a bus at a ferry station near Kyodongdo, Kanghwa-gun. For Special Forces Soldiers, rainy weather means the enemy is likely to be less alert.

For the members of the original Korean Tiger Brigade and U.S. Special Operations Command-Korea Soldiers in attendance, it was fitting weather for an outdoor memorial ceremony as well.

“The Tiger Brigade conducted unconventional warfare and special operations type activities — some with our assistance, but mostly on their own,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, SOCKOR commander. “They conducted unconventional, clandestine and covert operations behind enemy lines to further the war effort to disengage as many of the frontline troops as they could from the front line battle area.”

The Tigers were formed during the Korean War, when North Korean citizens who opposed Kim, Il-sung wanted freedom banded together to fight as partisans. They received some American assistance and training and managed to hold on to Kyodong Island throughout the war using it as a base for raids against communist troops.

“Korean history does not carry their history as grandly as they fought in the war, but when you

talk with these individuals about what they did, you understand and respect the magnitude of the sacrifice these individuals gave,” Mills said. “The old men that you see here in uniform today wear it as proudly as the day they fought in the war, and have earned all of the respect that comes with it.”

During the ceremony, solemn men stood and honored their fallen comrade’s words and memories. A memorial ground for the unit is located on the north side of the island, and when the clouds parted, North Korea was visible in the distance.

“My hometown is 3,500 meters over there,” Pak, Sang-joon said as he pointed to North Korea. Pak, the second commander of the Tiger Brigade, led the brigade from Sep. 1951 to Dec. 1953. He is now the chairman/president of the Federation of Partisan Forces Korea, 8240th Army Unit Veterans Association. “I was a teacher of high school at the time. I was 25 years old when I organized the partisan organization. I taught my students, what is freedom. I raided over there 68 times!”



*Members of the Tiger Brigade look on during a memorial service for their fallen comrades from the Korean War. SOCKOR Photo.*

## 39th continued, Page 14

Training Group.

Primarily a training and “combat advisory” unit, they work with each of the nine units to ensure a high level of proficiency in various Special Forces operations.

According to Master Sgt. Alfred Garcia, a member of 39th Detachment during war their roles change to “coalition support team leaders” where they would assist in executing the units’ combat missions.

These missions - instructor and team leader - are both demanding and essential to the successful execution of the wartime mission, Mills said. “(This unit) is comprised of some of the most technically and tactically

proficient and professional special operations noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Department of Defense, (The Soldiers) of detachment 39 do things everyday no other Special Operation Forces operators are capable of.”

Although the new designation won’t necessarily change the detachment’s mission, it will see changes in equipment and personnel authorizations,

For all intents and purposes though, its still business as usual for Special Forces Detachment 39.

“Regardless of the unit’s name or designation, one thing that remains the same is Special Forces Det. 39 will be manned with some of the best Special Forces Soldiers,” Mills said.



Brig. Gen. Gary M. Jones (far right) relinquishes command of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) to Brig. Gen. John F. Mulholland (far left) who is receiving the guidon from Lt. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger, Jr., commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, during the change of command ceremony held at Meadows Memorial Field, Fort Bragg, N.C., Sept. 30. Photo by Gillian M. Albrow.

# Special Forces welcomes new commander

By Sgt. Joe Healy  
U.S. Army Special Operations Command

Hundreds of Green Berets, former Special Forces commanders and command sergeant majors, friends of Special Operations Forces and family members gathered at Meadows Memorial Field Sept. 30, honoring two veteran Special Forces officers during a U.S. Army Special Forces Command change of command ceremony.

With sunshine breaking through heavy clouds overhead, Brig. Gen. John F. Mulholland Jr., a veteran commander of 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) who recently served at the Office of Military Cooperation in Kuwait, accepted command of USASFC from Brig. Gen. Gary M. Jones.

Jones had commanded USASFC since Sept. 15, 2003. During Jones' tenure, the legendary Green Berets had never been busier. According to Lt. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger, Jr., commander U.S. Army Special Operations Command, 80 percent of all present-day Green Berets are either now deployed, preparing to deploy or are currently engaged in combat operations. During 2005, Green Berets have detained more than 300 terrorists in Afghanistan, and Special Forces trained and equipped the Iraqi special operations brigade for Iraq's national referendum.

In a time-honored military tradition, the unit's colors were passed; Jones handed them to Kensinger, then Kensinger handed them to Mulholland. The Passing of the

Colors from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander symbolizes the command's transfer of power.

"As I stand here this morning, looking at these magnificent colors, I feel a sense of pride in your accomplishments and pride in the regiment that is not easily described," Jones said. "As I am prepared to relinquish command from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne) I wanted all of you to know that this has been the highlight of my life."

"I select to command no other unit," Jones said. Looking across the parade field directly into the eyes of those whom he commanded for two years, Jones continued. "Never in our history has one organization done more for your country to secure the populace from the horrors that exist in this world than you have done."

Kensinger reminded the audience inside the base of Special Forces Memorial Statue lays a time capsule. Inside the capsule is a copy of a speech President John F. Kennedy gave when he declared the Green Beret as a symbol of courage.

"Mike has been a great friend and confidante and will be missed," Kensinger said of Jones. In Jones' final remarks he thanked his wife and children and said, "No man can make it without his family."

"It is an honor and privilege to command the finest men in the world," Mulholland said upon taking command. "I am humbled and you deserve nothing but the best. Nobody does it better than you."



# Special Forces pioneer **honored** with artwork at SOF museum

*By Spc. James P. Hunter*

*49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)*

The Airborne and Special Operations Museum unveiled a bust of a famed retired World War II veteran Lt. Gen. William P. Yarborough Sept. 30.

Rudi Gresham, Special Forces retiree, believes a former president's specific motto is the best way to describe the 93 year-old Yarborough.

Former President Ronald Reagan once said, "... there is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

Yarborough never minded who got the credit while he led Paratroopers in four successful combat jumps during World War II and helped modernize the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Special Forces Soldiers of the past and the present gathered to witness the unveiling of the bust.

It replicates Yarborough from his uniform name tapes to the top of his Green Beret, featuring the peculiar knife known as the "Yarborough knife" to his front, the Fifth U.S. Army patch on his shoulder and his master parachutist wings sitting proudly upon his chest.

Originally, Voight Gilmore, Special Forces retiree from Southern Pines, came up with the idea of developing a pair of statues of President John F. Kennedy and Yarborough from when the president made his visit in 1961.

The presidential visit led to the authorization of the Green Beret, said Edward Matney, retiree, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

"(Yarborough) convinced President Kennedy that the Green Berets were the answer to the problems in Vietnam," Matney said, "and he wanted to make them distinctive from the rest of the Army."

The idea for the bust came about when the original idea for the sculptures were turned down because of funding, Matney said.

"After the project was turned

away because of funding," said Zenos Frudakis, "they wanted to abandon the project."

Frudakis read extensively about the retired general and his outstanding career in special operations and decided he wanted to continue with the sculpting and create the bust.

"It's not all or nothing. It's better to have something in the museum than nothing," he said. "He needs to be here. How can this museum be complete without him?"

Using photographs of Yarborough from the presidential visit in 1961, Frudakis was able to capture the sharp, aggressive and intelligent features.

"I wanted to make this a poetic biography," he said. "I wanted to give him eyes of a piercing falcon, meaning he has a goal that he is going to achieve."

Yarborough achieved a lot during his 36-year career, Matney said.

He was influential in forming airborne forces in the U.S. Army during the early 1940's, said retired Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow, former commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

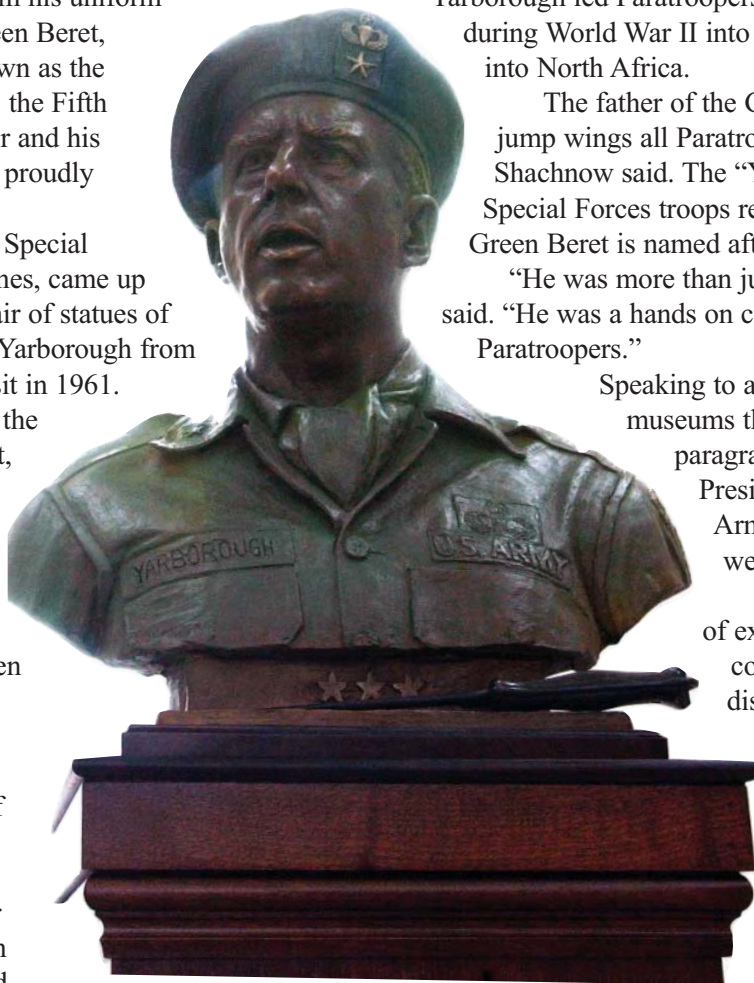
Yarborough led Paratroopers in four combat jumps during World War II into Sicily, Salerno and twice into North Africa.

The father of the Green Berets designed the jump wings all Paratroopers wear today, Shachnow said. The "Yarborough Knife" all Special Forces troops receive after earning their Green Beret is named after him.

"He was more than just a visionary," Shachnow said. "He was a hands on combat leader who led Paratroopers."

Speaking to a filled auditorium in the museums theater, Shachnow, recited a paragraph from a letter written by President Kennedy to the U.S. Army that approved the wearing of the Green Beret. "Green Beret: a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction and the fight for freedom," Shachnow read.

Past, present and future Soldiers who wear the Green Beret can be grateful and thankful to Yarborough because of his efforts and dedication, he said.



*Photo by Spc. James P. Hunter.*

As Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc along the Gulf Coast, special operators from around the country took the lead so...

# That others may live

*By Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
USSOCOM Public Affairs*



*Hurricane Katrina barrels its way towards the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast. NOAA photo.*



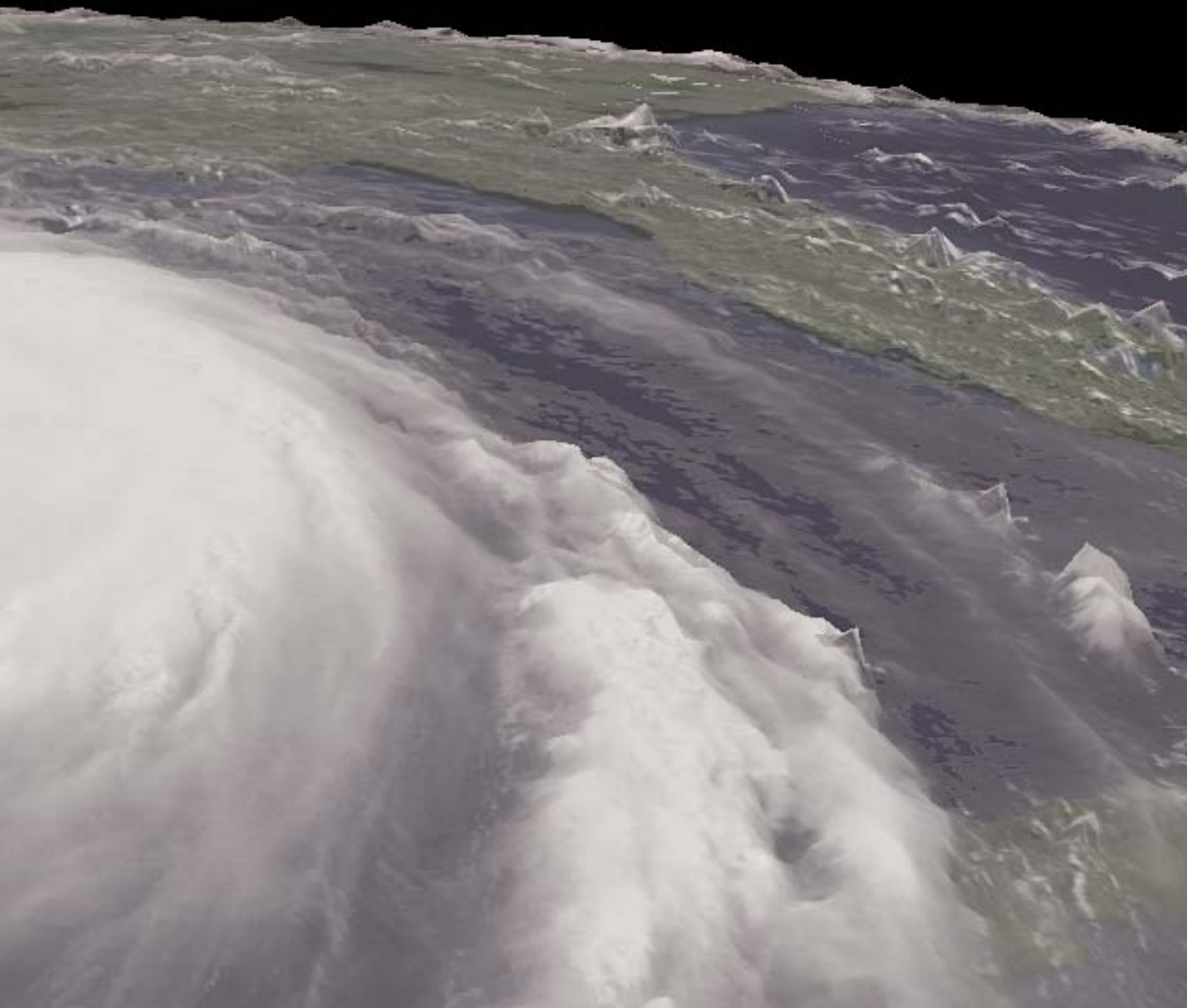
On Aug. 29 an unwelcome guest – Hurricane Katrina — crashed into the Central Gulf Coast. The storm devastated the area, laying waste to small towns along the beaches and brought the “Big Easy” to its knees. Shortly after what is being touted as the deadliest storm in America’s history raged inland, Quiet Professionals from across the country put down their weapons and set out on a mission of mercy. On the night of Aug. 31, an MC-130 from Hurlburt Field, Fla., landed at the New Orleans airport with a team of Combat Controllers and a small medical team to establish operations at the airport, which had no electricity or air traffic control capability. They set self-powered lights and other navigational aids, and then moved into the function of air traffic controller with portable radios

ensuring military aircraft could land and evacuate injured or ill people from the New Orleans area. Meanwhile, a hundred or so miles northeast of New Orleans, in Jackson Miss., the Air Force Special Operations Command started its search and rescue missions in earnest. Pararescuemen partners, with Special Operations Forces in the Global War on Terrorism, began their mission of mercy.

Day and night choppers filled the sky lifting people from houses flooded to the roof line. While many people were glad to see the crews, others were not so anxious to leave.

Many victims were not aware of the serious condition in their own city and did not want to

**See KATRINA, Page 20**



**KATRINA continued, Page 19**

leave, saying they can just “ride out the storm,” said Senior Airman Jack Earnshaw, Task Force Katrina Pararescueman.

“What they don't know are the dangers of staying behind,” Earnshaw said. “After we explained the dangers of the pollutants in the water and the overall condition of the city, several families finally got on the helo. They don't know how bad it is out there because they've been without television or radio for several days.”

Pararescuemen encountered scenarios much different than those in Southwest Asia, he said. Crews were dodging power lines, trees and confined spaces to get to victims and extract them safely.

Picking up civilians requires the Pararescuemen to take more time, be more reassuring than normal when recovering downed pilots. Military pilots and aircrews are trained to ride a hoist. Pararescuemen give them the horse collar and they can put it on. They know about helicopter rotor wash, said Master Sgt. Greg Bisogno, an Air Force Reserve Command Pararescueman, who is a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“With these folks, we talk to them and hook them

up,” he said. “They're scared and can't hear so we put their hands where we want them to hang on.”

To get to the people in their flooded houses is not easy. Bisogno has chopped his way through several roofs.

The Pararescuemen or PJs have tools as primitive as axes and as sophisticated as battery-powered saws-all and circular saws. Because the bottom floors were full of water, and most homes didn't have outside stairwells, the PJs went through the roofs to get inside and get the people out.

“There's nothing more rewarding than giving back to our own country,” Earnshaw said. “You really feel like you're giving back and serving Americans.”

During the peak of the rescue operation, 26 aircraft and more than 450 people shared the ramp in Jackson, Miss., with the Mississippi Air National Guard.

While the air operation grabbed most of the media attention, other groups of Quiet Professionals were in the area plying the flooded backwoods waterways and flooded city streets searching for survivors.

Naval Special Warfare Group Four led an entire task group to support Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts. NSW personnel from Special Boat Team 22 and Naval Small



*U.S. Naval Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen navigate the Pearl River in Louisiana in a Special Operations Craft-Riverine searching for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Scott Boyle.*





***Tech. Sgt. Lem Torres, Task Force Katrina Pararescuer, surveys houses Sept. 2 looking for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Pararescuer and Special Operations Forces are partners in the Global War on Terrorism. Photo by Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez.***

Craft Instruction and Technical Training School formed Task Unit-Mississippi, and SEAL Delivery Vehicle Two personnel employed 25 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft as part of Task Unit-Louisiana. SBT-22 based out of Stennis, Miss., joined the relief effort even though their own base was pummeled by Katrina.

SBT-22's SOC-R and other shallow draft boats searched Lake Pontchartrain and West Pearl River offering assistance to anyone in need.

Back in New Orleans, Naval Special Warfare Task Group Katrina team members and Soldiers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division used Zodiacs to navigate the flooded streets of the city.

Special operators, from the 20th Special Forces Group, were on the

***Naval Special Warfare Task Group Katrina team members and Soldiers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division carry a Zodiac to the launch point in a flooded New Orleans, La., neighborhood on Sept. 11. The boat crews are searching for Hurricane Katrina survivors throughout the devastated city. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Scott Boyle.***



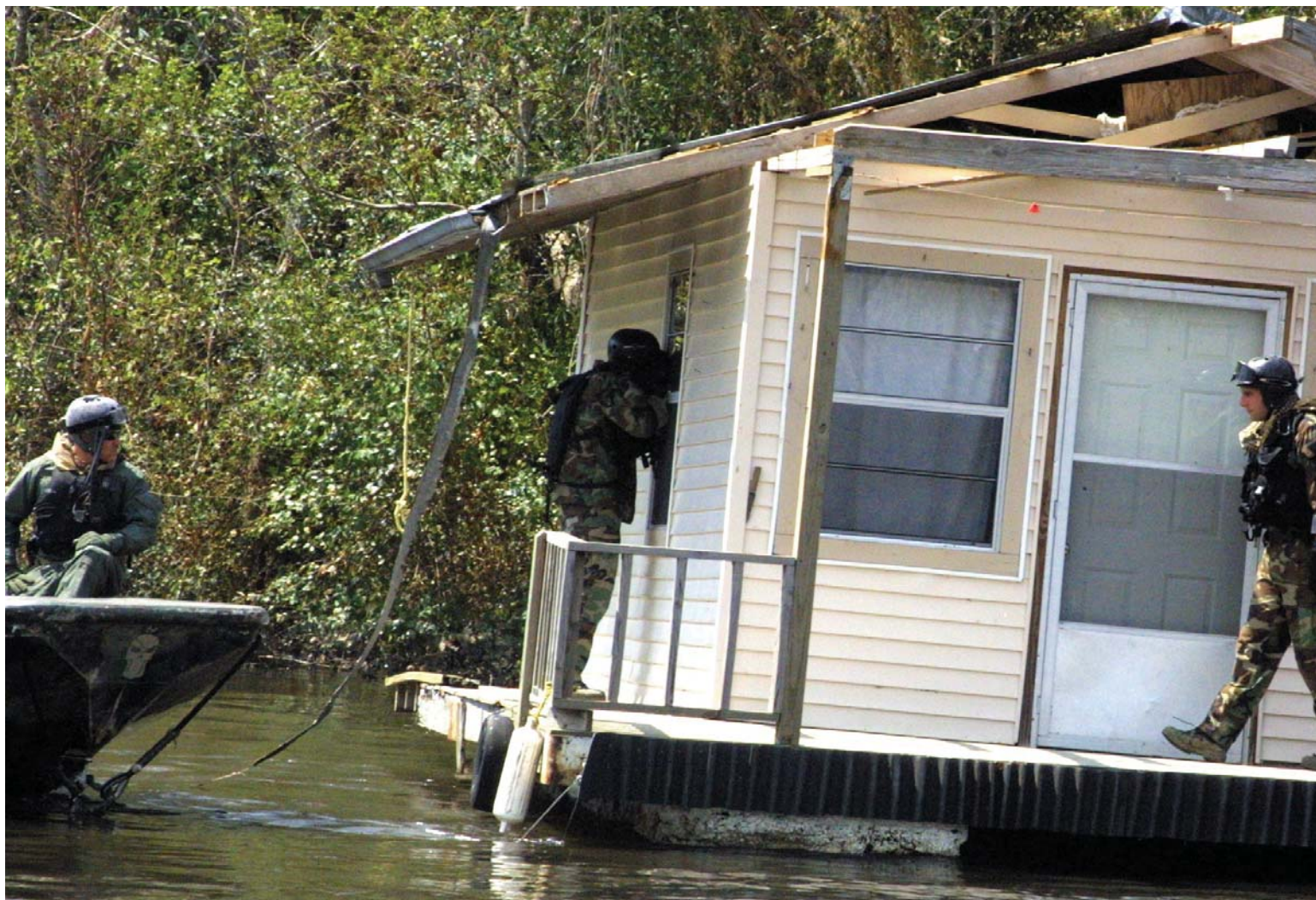
ground assisting in the rescue of survivors.

Whether in the air, on the water or boots on the ground, special operators answered the call. They put combat skills honed in areas of responsibility all over the world to use directly helping the people they have sworn to protect — not from the shadows or from behind the scenes this time — but in plain view of a grateful Nation.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld may have said it best — “Our military responded as a total force to this emergency. They saved lives and helped the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama recover from this disaster.”

***(Editors note: Lt. Col. Bob Thompson, Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs and Airman 1st Class Tim Bazar, 347th Expeditionary Rescue Group Public Affairs contributed to this story.)***





*Members of Special Boat Team 22 peer through the windows of a damaged houseboat looking for victims on the flooded Louisiana rivers after Hurricane Katrina. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Scott Boyle.*

## NSW boat crews search for Katrina survivors

*By Chief Petty Officer Scott Boyle  
NSW Task Group Katrina Public Affairs*

When flooded roads prevent the use of cars or trucks, shallow-draft river boats become the best option for getting around. The men of Naval Special Warfare who use them for river training in Stennis, Miss., know that the Special Operations Craft-Riverine (SOC-R) does many things well. The craft, specifically designed for shallow waterways, is primarily used for the insertion and extraction of Navy SEALs in hostile territory. But in the days following Hurricane Katrina, the SOC-R has taken on a different mission, a lifesaving one.

"The first day after the storm, the guys were itching to go, and that says a lot because many of them lost their homes as well," said Chief Petty Officer Stephen Babb, a Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman and the officer-

in-charge for a detachment from Special Boat Team 22.

The SWCCs and support staff of SBT-22 live and work in what was the direct path of Katrina's eye.

"The first day we got underway was on Lake Pontchartrain near Eden Isles. We found people trying to fix their homes, and gave them food and water. They couldn't thank us enough," Babb said. "It's our community as well. It was the first time some of my guys saw their own homes."

Sept. 7, four of the team's boat crews spent the afternoon searching for storm survivors along a 20-mile stretch of the West Pearl River.

Hundreds of homes, mostly fishing shanties floating on makeshift pontoons, lined the river banks. Many of these homes had limited road access under normal conditions, and were completely cut off from land after Katrina swept through the area. The fates of their owners are unknown.

Working in groups of two, the SWCCs piloted their



boats from side to side, shanty to shanty, looking for any signs of life.

“Log, twelve o’clock!” hollered Petty Officer 1st Class Jereme Blackburn from the bow of his boat. A tree, probably 40-feet long and two-feet thick, was floating in the current directly in the boat’s path. Blackburn lay on his stomach, head hung over the edge, and directed Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Tabarez, the SOC-R’s driver, around the massive hazard. The boat slowly crept forward, dodging debris bobbing in the water. It inched to a broken dock, now separated from the home it was once attached to. The shanty, with part of its roof blown away, had floated to its current resting point on the riverbank.

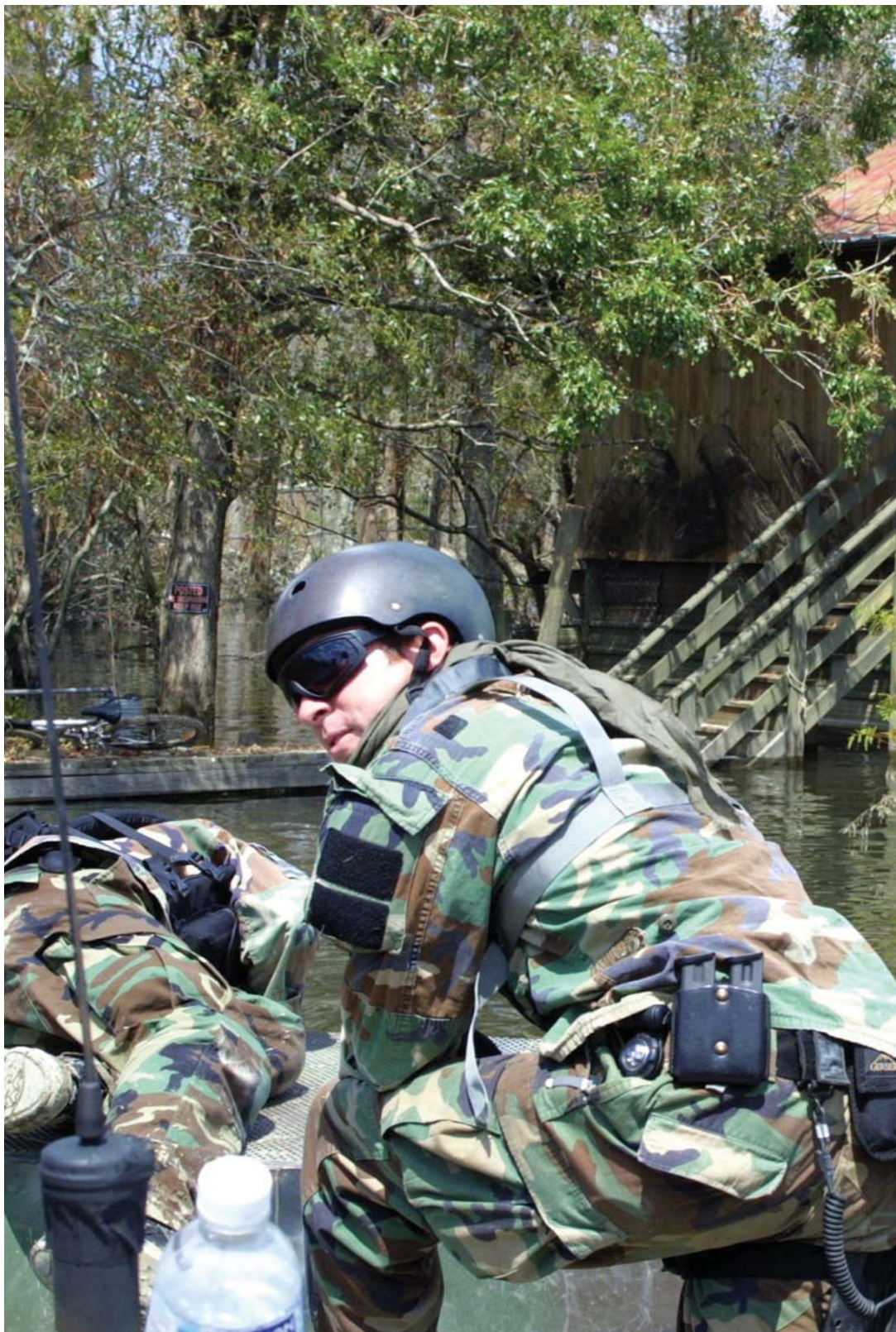
Tabarez inched forward until the SOC-R’s bow barely touched the dock. Blackburn and Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Cahill hopped off, and, making their way through tree branches and gaps in the dock’s wooden boards, approached the damaged building.

“U.S. Navy!” Cahill called out. “Is anyone here?”

They approached the front door, which was slightly open. Blackburn and Cahill cautiously entered the home, looking for any signs of life, calling out to anyone who might be in need of supplies or medical assistance. After a few minutes they emerged, shaking their heads from side to side. No one was home — a good thing under these circumstances.

The three other SOC-Rs were doing the same thing on both sides of the river, inching into tributaries that were inaccessible by boat two weeks ago, yet were now up to 10-feet deep.

The mission continued for many hours. At the end of the day, about 25 homes were searched by the boat teams. Though none of their neighbors were found so far, they continue the search for anyone who might still be stranded and needing assistance. For the Sailors of SBT-22, this is more than a mission. This is their community.



***Special Boat Team 22 crewmen cruise the Pearl River, in Louisiana searching shallow waterways for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. U.S. Naval Special Operations is contributing to the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations being led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the Department of Defense. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Scott Boyle.***



# 'Boat guy' earns Bronze Star Medal

*By Chief Petty Officer  
Robert Benson  
NSWG-4 Public Affairs*

A boat officer from Naval Special Warfare received one of the Nation's highest combat awards, the highest award ever earned by a member of NSW's newest warfare community, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen.

A chief warrant officer from Special Boat Team 12, received the Bronze Star during a ceremony Aug. 25.

"Do you understand the significance of your daddy's medal?" asked Cmdr. Michael Lumpkin, SBT-12 commanding officer, to the chief's son following the ceremony in the command's boat.

He answered yes, but at the young age of 11, he may not have understood the full impact or importance of the award. "This medal represents the role SWCCs played in the initial part of the war," the chief said. "It reflects not just on me, but my whole detachment."

The chief was proud of the award, adding his grandfather also had a Bronze Star. "I remember seeing my grandfather's medal as a kid, so this really means a lot to me. My family is also proud; I think my wife was more excited about it than I was."

His actions, described in the award's citation as



**A Special Boat Team 12 chief warrant officer receives a Bronze Star from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on Aug. 25. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class H. Dwain Willis.**

"heroic," prevented a "catastrophic environmental disaster" in Iraq in March and April 2003.

"The successful mission consisted of 35 SEALs, 24 Polish GROM, and 10 Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craftsman," read the citation. His "dedication to planning and execution of the strategically important mission achieved National Command Authority objectives and prevented the Iraqi regime from flooding the region with millions of gallons of crude oil. The successful seizure of the oil terminal in Southern Iraqi waters also permitted the safe transit of coalition ship movement. In addition, the chief led personnel during the boarding and clearance of 115 vessels within the mined waterways of the Khaur Abd Allah with a force of 10 Special Boat Team craft and both SEAL and Polish GROM boarding teams."

The award wasn't the only first for the chief and the SWCC community — two years ago, when he was a chief boatswain's mate, he was commissioned as the first chief warrant officer in the community.

He "re-received" the award the following week from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld during the secretary's visit to NSW.

SWCCs train extensively in craft and weapons tactics, focusing on clandestine infiltration and ex-filtration of SEALs and other Special Operations Forces.



**A Chief Warrant Officer David shows his Bronze Star. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class H. Dwain Willis.**



# Night Wings return to roost

*By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes  
16th Special Operations Wing*

After more than two years, Hurlburt Field finally welcomed home the 9th Special Operations Squadron, a tenant unit at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The 9th SOS family reunited after 26 months of continuous deployment rotations.

The rotations began in May 2003, and the last rotation returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom Sept. 4.

"We had a great time. We focused on the mission and got the mission done," said Lt. Col. Steven Lambert, 9th SOS commander.

While deployed, the 9th SOS performed its regular duties as well helping in other areas of the mission.

"We're not just tankers, we do that and a whole lot more," said Tech. Sgt. Rich Hosaka, 9th SOS loadmaster.

The unit assisted in psychological warfare operations by dropping more than 500,000 leaflets in Iraq before the elections. Two planes from the 9th SOS flew more than 1,600 combat hours and delivered nearly 3 million pounds of cargo in 2004 and another 1,200 combat hours and almost 4 million pounds in just eight months this year.

Along with delivering cargo, the 9th SOS transported almost 2,000 troops in 2004 and close to 3,100 troops in 2005 in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



**Airmen from the 9th Special Operations Squadron drop leaflets over Iraq to encourage Iraqi citizens to vote in the March 2005 elections. 9th SOS photo.**

During that period the 9th SOS has had almost a third of the squadron deployed at any one time. For its efforts while deployed, the 9th SOS earned the Air Force Association's Citation of Honor.

An Airman of the 9th SOS attributes the squadron's mission success to one thing: "It's a good command, good mission, good plane, but we have great people," said Senior Airman Pat Reagan, 9th SOS loadmaster.

"We're a lot smaller than a lot of the other operations units at Hurlburt Field, but we are deployed just as much," said Capt. Nicole Phelan, 9th SOS navigator.

During critical personnel shortages, the squadron received manning augmentation from other MC-130P units, specifically the 5th SOS, Reserve Associate at Eglin and the 67th SOS from Royal Air Force Mildenhall.

"If you ask the average Hurlburt Field Airmen what units are part of the wing, they forget about the geographically separated units. Our record over that last few years should get rid of the 'out of sight, out of mind' mindset," Lambert said. The squadron is going to use this reconstitution time to get people caught up on training, continue off-duty and professional military education and allow people to take some of the leave they have accrued during the past 26 months, Lambert said.

Being able to come home and focus ... its nice, Hosaka said.

The 9th SOS's specialty is night-vision goggle low-level air refueling of special operations helicopters. Additionally, it can perform airdrop, airland and rescue missions.



**A 9th Special Operations Squadron MC-130P Combat Shadow taxis before taking off to conduct a psychological operations mission by dropping leaflets in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 9th SOS photo.**

# Air Commandos build bonds with African country



*A 6th Special Operations Squadron maintenance instructor examines components of a turboprop engine on the Nigerien air force C-130 while a Nigerien maintainer learns some new techniques. Photo by Capt. Tom Montgomery.*

*By Capt. Tom Montgomery*  
**AFSOC**

A select team of combat aviation advisors from the 6th Special Operations Squadron deployed to the edge of the Sahara desert to conduct a joint exchange training exercise with the fledgling Niger air force in August.

Because the 6th SOS has been to Niger numerous times, the air commandos better understand how to adapt to living and working in one of the world's poorest countries. The team requires very little outside support and leaves a very small footprint in the local area. The air commandos are culturally and linguistically trained to earn the respect of partner-nation citizens and military forces.

"The goal of the training during this deployment was for both air forces to enhance their already solid working relationship and promote an open exchange of ideas," Jerry Klingaman, director of strategy and plans for the 6th SOS, said.

Niger is in the middle of the Trans-Saharan region of Africa and is an important ally in the fight against

international terrorism, said Dennise Mathieu, U.S. ambassador to Niger.

Terrorist organizations have been able to exploit the remote, harsh terrain and loose border controls of the Trans-Sahara to their advantage. Terrorist groups and their supporters have funneled cash, recruits and weapons across the vast stretches of the Sahara — a desert as large as the continental United States, Klingaman said.

"We're maintaining skills that are crucial to one of our main missions in the 6th: Combat aviation advisory operations," said an Air Force major who was the deputy mission commander. "We're not only maintaining our (advisory) skills, we're also tending a great relationship we enjoy with the Niger air force."

The Air Commandos of the 6th SOS are experts in aviation advisory operations to all corners of the globe, fluent in dozens of languages, and instructors on numerous foreign aircraft.

Niger's air force, less than two years old, has about 300 airmen and 10 flyable aircraft, including a C-130 Hercules and a Russian built Mi-17 multi-role helicopter. The Air Commandos from Hurlburt Field can fly and



maintain both.

“Our air force is very small, but we are improving, and we are learning,” said Nigerien Col. Hassan Mossi, Niger air force vice chief of staff. “It is extremely important for us to continue working with the U.S. Air Force. We love working with these guys (6th SOS) because they understand our needs as airmen, they understand our national culture, and they make an effort to speak our language.” French is Niger’s official language.

The Air Commando team and the Nigeriens flew the C-130 and Mi-17 extensively during the exercise, practicing tactical skills, such as low-level navigation and remote-landing-zone infiltration.

“They’ve come a long way with how they use their Mi-17 — doing more missions and exploring the capabilities of the aircraft,” said a 6th SOS major. The major learned to pilot the Mi-17 in a former communist bloc country now on friendly terms with the United States.

“He (the major) taught me much better tactical approaches, spending much less time in a vulnerable position as we descended,” said Nigerien Capt. Ibrahim Almoustapha, Mi-17 pilot.

“We learned a lot about crew coordination, which is very difficult,” said Nigerien Capt. Amirou Abdulkader, another Mi-17 pilot.

The exercise wasn’t all about flying, however.

“In addition to pilots and navigators, we’ve brought along other aircrew members, maintainers, medical personnel, security forces, flight engineers and engine mechanics, among others,” said an Air Force technical sergeant who was the team sergeant, or lead non-commissioned officer, for this operation.

“I wish I could have that unit (6th SOS) in every country every day of the week,” Air Force Gen. Robert Foglesong, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, said.

Foglesong is responsible for air operations in Europe and most of Africa. He visited Niger and flew with the Air Commandos and the Nigeriens aboard the C-130.

Mathieu shared the general’s sentiment. “The 6th provide exactly what the Nigeriens want,” she said. “The Nigeriens have always said they have the motivation, but sometimes they need a little help.”

“(This unit has) an ability to lash-up with these partner nations in such a way as to be very user-friendly,” Foglesong said. “We must remember that we can’t fight transnational terrorism individually. Collective security is vital to the next decade of democracy.”

The U.S. government is engaging in a multi-faceted effort, called the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative to deny terrorists any safe haven they may have enjoyed

in the region. The initiative’s goal is to improve the capabilities of Trans-Saharan governments so they can effectively prevent or remove terrorist threats themselves. The military component is called Operation Enduring Freedom Trans Sahara.

“It is a very positive thing to have good military-to-military cooperation between Niger and the U.S. as we help build a stronger partner in the global war on terrorism,” Mathieu said.

“The Nigeriens don’t have all of the tools and parts they need, but they are very creative and find ways to fix things,” said an Air Force technical sergeant, who is a maintenance adviser on the team. “We have to be flexible and understand that they do things very differently than how we are taught in our air force.”

The exercise kept airmen from both air forces busy in the air and in the briefing rooms.

At the end of the exercise, the two air forces had practiced numerous aviation tactics, aircraft and perimeter security, airbase defense, detailed maintenance procedures, search-and-rescue operations, and a full-scale mass-casualty scenario involving the national hospital, emergency-response teams, and the C-130 and Mi-17.

“Things went very well,” the deputy mission commander said. “In past trips their C-130 (Hercules) had some maintenance problems, but our cooperative efforts over the past year have solved those problems, and this time around we really flew that ‘Herk.’”

### **FACT:** The mission of the 6th Special



Operations Squadron is to advise and train foreign aviation forces to employ and sustain their own assets and, when necessary, to integrate those assets into joint, multi-national operations. The wartime mission of the 6th SOS is to assess, train, advise and assist foreign aviation

forces in airpower employment, sustainment, and force integration in three interrelated mission areas: foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare and coalition support.

# Marine Corps Special Operations Com

*Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser*  
*USSOCOM Public Affairs*

Now there are four.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld formally announced the creation of the Marine Corps Special Operations Command during a press briefing at the Pentagon Nov. 1 making it the fourth component in U.S. Special Operations Command.

“In this complex and unconventional conflict, we are constantly looking for ways to strengthen our armed forces,” he said.

The new command will consist of 2,600 Marines stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and Camp Pendleton, Calif.

MARSOC’s primary mission will be to organize, man, train and equip Marine Special Operations Forces. The MARSOC subordinate elements will provide training to foreign militaries, conduct specified special operations missions like special reconnaissance, engage in direct action, provide intelligence support, coordinate supporting fires and provide logistical support to special operations task forces.

“MARSOC will be a true component of USSOCOM— just like Army Special Operations Command, Air Force Special Operations Command and Naval Special Warfare Command,” said Gen. Doug Brown, commander of USSOCOM. “MARSOC provides SOCOM additional capability in critical areas for GWOT such as foreign



internal defense, combat enablers and provides SOF a forward flexible force on call as they are trained and placed in the Marine Expeditionary Units.”

Brig. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, now the deputy commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton Calif., has been selected to command MARSOC. Hejlik formerly served as the chief of staff and the director, of the Center for Operations, Plans and Policy at USSOCOM.

Though USSOCOM and the Marine Corps have not established an activation date for the MARSOC, some elements, like the Foreign Military Training Unit, will be able to assume responsibility for missions almost immediately. Others will be ready after a period of specialized training. A small number of Marines are already assigned to the U.S. Special Operations



***A Marine from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) patrols along a road near Khas Uruzgan, Afghanistan. Members of the MEU recently moved farther north into Uruzgan Province to disrupt Taliban and anti-coalition activity preceding Afghanistan's election registration efforts. Photo by Capt. Eric Dent.***



# mand becomes USSOCOM component



*Force Reconnaissance Marines from Command Element, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) conduct live-fire training on the flight deck aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) while underway in the Pacific Ocean. Photo by Cpl. Thomas J. Grove.*

will be needed.

"The 2,600 Marines will not answer the total growth requirement of Special Operations Command over the next several years," said Vice Adm Eric T. Olson, USSOCOM deputy commander. "But they're an immediate boost that will be employable in the near- and mid-term in important ways."

MARSOC will have a headquarters and three subordinate elements, the Marine Special Operations Regiment, the Foreign Military Training Unit and the Marine Special Operations Support Group. The headquarters, the FMTU and the MSOSG will be stationed at Camp Lejeune. The Marine Special Operations Regiment, which will have two Marine Special Operations Battalions, with one Marine Special Operations Battalion stationed at Camp Lejeune and the other at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Start-up and sustainment costs for the new component are still being analyzed.

"The decision that was made last week was a bold decision, but it's a good and important decision made at the right time in history," Olson said. "We have really progressed toward this in a deliberate way with a lot of discussion."

Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla. Marine Brig. Gen. George Flynn is the current chief of staff at USSOCOM.

MARSOC forces will provide some relief to the Special Operations Forces who are experiencing a high operations tempo in the Global War on Terrorism. The command will also enable USSOCOM to accomplish some of the missions currently not being performed because of competing priorities.

The new command "will increase the number of Special Operations Forces available for missions worldwide while expanding their capabilities in some key areas," Rumsfeld said.

Even with the addition of the Marine contingent, more Special Operations Forces

*A Lance Corporal from the 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Bn., 8th Marines, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), fires an AT4 recoilless rifle during fire and maneuver training near Camp Bucca, Iraq. Photo by Cpl. Eric R. Martin.*



# Stationed for education: ‘Degree in Three’

By Capt. Joseph Coslett  
USSOCOM Public Affairs

A Special Operations Forces Soldier will walk across the stage this December in a cap and gown, receiving a college degree as part of a life-long learning partnership between U.S. Special Operations Command and the University of South Florida.

Sgt. Maj. Andrew Farkas, USSOCOM, will graduate from USF with a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Science and a business minor. USSOCOM and USF partnered a year ago to create an educational degree completion program, allowing active-duty enlisted and warrant officer special operators who are within a year of obtaining their bachelor’s degree, to attend USF full-time in residence.

“It was a chance of a lifetime to finish my degree,” Farkas said. “I really believe in the program — SOF operators in high ops tempo, multiple deployment assignments can come to Tampa, finish their degrees and then work for USSOCOM — it’s an opportunity worth

looking into.”

USSOCOM has changed the program name from the “SOF College Undergraduate Degree Assistance Program” to the “SOF Degree-in-Three Program.” Future SOF candidates can apply if they possess approximately 90 hours of transferable college credits, which in most cases places them within three semesters of gaining a diploma, hence the name “Degree in Three.”

One program area getting more emphasis is the up-front assessment on a candidate’s academic qualifications.

“Competitive candidates that fall short of the program’s specific requirements will receive information on what courses they might take on their own to make them eligible for the program,” said Boyd Ballard, USSOCOM Joint Education Branch.

Once selected, candidates are assigned to USSOCOM headquarters and are allowed up to one year to attend USF full-time to complete their degree, then spend the remainder of their assignment in a position at the command. All school-associated costs are the responsibility of the individual,

however tuition assistance and the Montgomery G.I. Bill can offset some of the expenses.

USF offers academic programs across a wide spectrum — more than 200 majors and programs in 10 colleges, covering engineering, education, criminal justice, anthropology, biochemistry and geology, to name a few. SOF personnel who have gathered an eclectic selection of completed coursework from various community colleges, universities, or military courses accredited by the American Council on Education, ACE, should be able to apply much of that work to a field of study to their liking at USF.

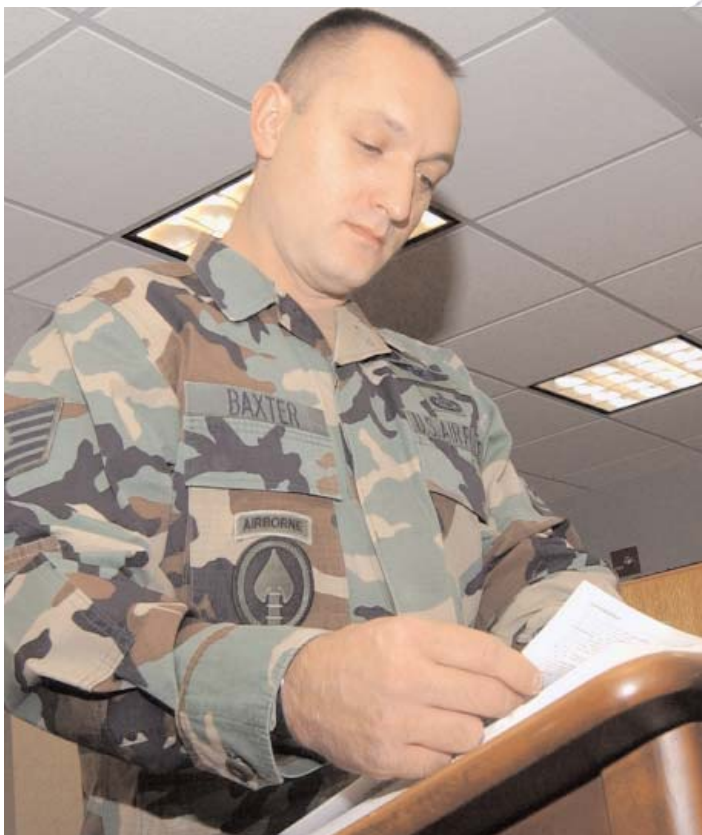
University of South Florida has a dedicated program counselor who serves as a mentor from the initial evaluation of the candidate’s qualifications through their choice of major and course-load requirements to complete a BA or BS degree.

“Attending college in residence full-time is an attractive alternative



Maj. Gen. Paulette Risher pins sergeant major stripes on Master Sgt. Andrew Farkas in August. Farkas graduates from the University of South Florida in December using the “Degree in Three” program. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser.





**Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Baxter, U.S. Special Operations Command Joint Intelligence Training NCOIC, used the Enlightened Warrior program to obtain his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from American Intercontinental University. He graduates in January 2006. Photo by Capt. Joseph Coslett.**

when compared to completing coursework on your own time at night or weekends," Ballard said. "For those tired of taking one course at a time, the opportunity to finish a degree within three semesters at USF represents a tremendous opportunity."

An alternative program to obtain an undergraduate degree is the command sponsored Enlightened Warrior program.

Information about Enlightened Warrior can be found at the Joint Special Operations University website: [www.hurlburt.af.mil/jsou/](http://www.hurlburt.af.mil/jsou/). The site has information about the four universities participating in this program.

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Baxter, USSOCOM Joint Intelligence Training NCOIC, participated in this program and will graduate in January with a degree in Business Administration and Marketing from American Intercontinental University.

"I was attracted to the Enlightened Warrior program because of the quality of schools offered," Baxter said. "The schools were regionally accredited, plus the accelerated program allowed me to finish my degree within 12 months."

Personnel interested these programs can contact the USSOCOM Joint Education Branch directly at DSN 299-9834 or commercial 813-828-9834.

# Financial Tips:

## Tuition Assistance Program

The Tuition Assistance Program provides financial assistance for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a service member's professional and personal self-development goals. Tuition assistance is available for courses that are offered online, by correspondence or through other non-traditional means. The Services will pay all or a portion of the charges of an educational institution for the tuition and expenses of its service members. For post secondary education during off-duty periods, the Services will cover up to the newly established semester hour cap of \$250 and annual ceiling of \$4,500. When an institution's tuition and fees are \$250 or less per semester hour (or equivalent), the Services will pay 100 percent of the amount charged by an institution. When an institution's tuition and fees exceed \$250 per semester, the Service will pay \$250 per semester hour (or equivalent) of credit. For more information, please visit the DoD Voluntary Education site at [www.voled.doded.mil](http://www.voled.doded.mil).

## Financial Aid FAFSA

Considering attending a college or career school?

Which one to attend is one of the most important decisions you need to make. Another is how to pay for the education. To help, the U.S. Department of Education offers a variety of student financial aid programs, but a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) needs to be filled out first. Visit

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## Tuition Assistance Top-up

On Oct. 30, 2000, the President signed into law an amendment to the Montgomery GI Bill — Active Duty education program that permits Veteran Affairs to pay a Tuition Assistance Top — up benefit.

The amount of the benefit can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of Tuition Assistance that is paid by the military for the course.

For more information, log on to [www.gibill.va.gov/education/News/TATU.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/News/TATU.htm).

# SOF leads de-mining campaign in Operation Safe Passage

*By Cmdr. Linda Herlocker and  
Senior Airman Darren Rayborn  
USSOCOM History Office*

The human cost of war does not end when the Soldiers go home. Ravaged economies must mend, cities must rebuild, and the “litter” left behind must be cleared. When the last of the Soviet forces finally pulled out of Afghanistan in 1989, they left behind a devastated landscape peppered with millions of landmines. More than 5 million refugees needed to be repatriated, but landmines killed and maimed thousands who tried to return to their homes.

In mid-1988, the United Nations asked the United States to participate in Safe Passage to provide mine awareness and mine clearing training for Afghan refugees. Finally in November 1988, the United States and the UN had defined the course of action. This course of action would be “develop a curriculum that a multinational UN team can use to train Afghan cadres. These Afghan cadres will in turn train Afghan refugees.” This would include removing and/or destroying mines. By the end of November 1988, two Special Forces personnel had deployed for a site survey. In January 1989, approximately 40 Special Operations Forces (SOF) personnel, to include SF, Civil Affairs, and Psychological Operations Soldiers, arrived in Pakistan.

The training of foreign military personnel is a special operations mission, so despite the Army engineers’ experience with mines, this mission fell to SOF Soldiers. The SF instructors did welcome and use information developed by the Army engineers for training purposes. Safe Passage consisted of “mine awareness” (training Afghans on how to spot, mark, report, and avoid mines) and “train-the-trainer” (imparting this training to others). By using this approach, the UN hoped to have 15,000 demining teams in place within six months.

The first group of SOF in Pakistan found a complex milieu of media and humanitarian aid organizations, not enough training equipment, and no effective Afghan government or chain of command. Another item of concern was the SF trainers could not wear their uniform and could not carry weapons even for self-defense. They

were first required to wear the UN uniform since this was a UN operation. The Afghans, however, thought the UN uniform looked too much like the Russian uniform, so SF Soldiers were authorized to wear civilian clothing. By the time the rest of the UN trainers arrived, the SOF instructors had made models of mines for use as training aids, taught mine awareness to 150 Afghans, and added another six hours of first aid training to the curriculum.

The UN participants and Afghans did not readily accept the “train-the-trainer” concept. But gradually, the “train-the-trainer” concept took hold, and by the end of the first year, Safe Passage had graduated 45 Afghan instructors and more than 5,500 deminers. By the end of March 1990, Afghan instructors taught all demining classes, and the UN began to cut back on personnel. The operation had trained more than 12,000 deminers by January 1991 when Operation Safe Passage officially ended.

Special Operations Forces success in Safe Passage created a demand for humanitarian mine clearing efforts elsewhere in the world. SOF have been sent on demining missions to such places as Ethiopia, Cambodia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, to name a just few, as part of President Clinton’s commitment to eliminate the threat of landmines to civilians by 2010.



*Examples of unexploded ordnance compiled before being destroyed in Bamyán, Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt. Ronald Mitchell.*





## *Night Flyer*

An U.S. Army sergeant from the 362nd Psychological Operation Battalion gets ready to take off on a night leaflet drop mission over the District of Shawali-Kot, Sept. 26. The leaflets are part of a campaign to encourage citizens of Afghanistan to turn in Anti-coalition Militia (ACM), support the government and to cease firing on Americans and coalition forces. Photo by Pfc. Leslie Angulo.